

Emerging Writers

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Introduction and Acknowledgments

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Acknowledgments

We wish to acknowledge each of the students who submitted selections written for their English 1101 and 1102 courses to the Emerging Writers Contest and the faculty who encouraged their students to submit work for consideration. We also wish to thank our 2019 national judges:

Creative Non-Fiction: Michael Mejia, Associate Professor of English at the University of Utah, Editor-in-Chief of *Western Humanities Review*, and Co-Founding Editor of Ninebark Press.

Academic: Michelle Devereaux, Professor of English, Kennesaw State University, and author of *More Grammar to Get Things Done: Daily Lessons for Teaching Grammar in Context* and *Teaching About Dialect Variations and Language in Secondary English Classrooms: Power, Prestige, and Prejudice*.

Short Essay: Nancy Sommers, former head of the Harvard College Writing Program and Adjunct Lecturer on Education at Harvard Graduate School of Education, author of *A Writer's Reference*.

Most importantly, we extend our thanks to M.J. Severson, Jenny Sadre-Orafai, and Allison Davis for creating, planning, and coordinating the contest and for their continued commitment to recognizing and celebrating the excellent work of our first-year writing students.

First Year Composition at Kennesaw State University

In the General Education program in English at KSU, we aim for students to learn to write and read at higher levels. In English 1101 and English 1102, we want students to have challenging and rewarding experiences—reading, writing, and thinking; analyzing and presenting information and ideas; brainstorming, drafting, revising, and editing.

What you will find in the essays that follow is the result of that process. No essay in this journal was written just once and handed in. Earlier versions were read and commented on by other students or teachers or Writing Center consultants. Using the feedback offered, the writers have shaped, added more research, cut, re-worded, re-arranged, sharpened their focus, and included more detail.

The resulting essays— academic, creative nonfiction, and short essay—are readable, interesting, and often moving. They are honest in ways that let us see the person behind the writing. Those papers that are based on research are powerful in that the topics are engaging and real—and of real interest to the writers themselves.

I invite you to join this process. Save your essays and the preliminary writing you do in preparation—drafts, brainstorming, peer reviews, and so forth. Look for announcements early in the spring semester. For more information on first-year writing at KSU, visit our website: fyc.kennesaw.edu.

Over my many years at Kennesaw State University, the celebration of the Emerging Writers contest winners was always the best time of the academic year for me.

Beth Daniell

Professor Emerita of English

The Kennesaw State University Writing Center

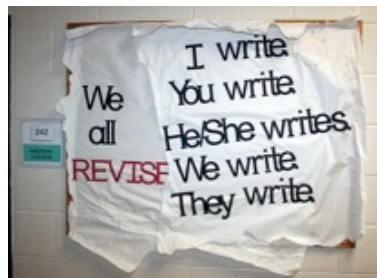
The KSU Writing Center is dedicated to helping all KSU students write successfully. Our friendly, highly trained writing assistants (undergraduate and graduate students and faculty members) are passionate about writing *and* about helping others write. Writing assistants will work with you on writing assignments for any class or subject and at any stage of the writing process, from brainstorming a topic to polishing a final draft. Visit us in English Building, Room 242 on the Kennesaw campus; Johnson Library, Room 121 on the Marietta campus; at one of our satellite locations; or virtually, using our live audio, video, or chat features.

Appointments are strongly encouraged and can be made on our website or in person. To learn more about our how we can help you become a better writer, as well as to find out about our workshops, special events, and online resources, visit: writingcenter.kennesaw.edu. Be sure to like us on Facebook (Kennesaw State University Writing Center) and follow us on Twitter (@KSUWC)!

Mary Lou Odom

Director, KSU Writing Center

Associate Professor of English



Emerging Writers: An Introduction

The Emerging Writers contest grew out of a common desire among teachers of first year composition courses at Kennesaw State University to publicly recognize the excellent and creative work of our students. In 2011, our colleagues Jenny Sadre-Orafai and Allison Davis planned and coordinated the first contest, gathering submissions, securing first-round essay reviewers from within the KSU community, inviting esteemed national judges to make final essay selections, and hosting the Emerging Writers reception in April. As a result of their vision and ongoing work and the contributions of numerous faculty, students, and staff, you now view the 2019 volume of our Emerging Writers collection of student essays.

Each year, we have seen the contest grow, with increasing numbers of student essay submissions written for English 1101 and 1102 courses. And as the contest has grown, the final publication has continued to take shape. Our first two volumes were printed and formatted in-house, and for next four years, the text was published professionally by Fountainhead Press. In 2018, we moved to Digital Commons to digitally publish future volumes.

Beyond our commitment to celebrating first year student writing and to seeing this work published, faculty teaching within the program also have made a commitment to integrate the Emerging Writers essays within their courses. We are excited to share this work with you and hope that it will help shape your own writing and research process. During each spring semester, you will see posted around campus the call for submissions—we look forward to reading your work!

Letizia Guglielmo

Associate Professor of English